



Attorney Docket No. 06502.0018-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of: ) Prior Application Data  
 ) Serial No. 09/023,074  
 ) Filed: February 13, 1998  
 )  
 ) MATENA, Vladimir )  
 )  
 ) Application No.: Not yet assigned ) Group Art Unit: 2785  
 )  
 ) Filed: November 20, 2000 ) Examiner: LE, Dieu-Minh Thai  
 )  
 ) For: METHOD AND APPARATUS )  
 ) FOR RELIABLE DISK FENCING )  
 ) IN A MULTICOMPUTER )  
 ) SYSTEM )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please cancel all amendments and remarks specified in the Preliminary Amendment filed November 20, 2000 and prior to the examination of the above-reference application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 and add claims 14-26 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for preventing access to a shared peripheral device by a processor-based node in a multinode system, [including the steps of] comprising:
  - (1) storing at the peripheral device a first unique value representing a first configuration of the multinode system;